

City of Selah
Council Minutes

October 23, 2007

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 3:58pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Keith Larson, Paul Overby, Allen Schmid, Herb Schmidt, Scott Smeback

Members Excused: Brian Harris, Denise Nichols

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Rick Gutierrez, Police Chief; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Lieutenant; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner; Jeff Hagler, Parks & Recreation Director; Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance. Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler led the group in prayer.

D. Agenda Changes

Mayor Jones announced that there will be a fifteen minute executive session to discuss real estate.

E. Public Appearances

1. Community Pride Award

Mayor Jones stated he received a call this summer asking to use the Selah City logo for a display. He noted students used that logo to present the Selah apple in grain and rice. He stated he was pleased to open the *Selah Independent* and see that the FFA Chapter had won first place with their horticultural display at the Central Washington State Fair. He noted this was their first such award since 1969. The Mayor presented the Community Pride award to the Selah Chapter of the FFA and their advisors Ray Harris and Jim Clifton.

Mayor Jones introduced Councilman Smeback's daughter

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

1. Selah Fitness Express – Mike Moore, Manager

Mr. Moore was unable to attend. He will be present at the November 13 Council Meeting.

G. Communications

1. Oral
2. Written
 - a. Mountain States Construction Co. Report #9
 - b. Programming Changes Charter Communications
 - c. 2008 YVCOG Proposed Bylaw Changes

H. Proclamations/Announcements

1. Proclamation Veterans Day 2007

Mayor Jones read the Proclamation for Veterans' Day 2007.

WHEREAS, on November 11, 1889 President William Henry Harrison issued a proclamation declaring approval of the Washington Constitution, and Washington was admitted to the Union, and

WHEREAS, Armistice Day commemorated the end of World War I on November 11, 1918 when fighting stopped at 11AM, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, and

WHEREAS, many states made Armistice Day a state holiday in the 1920s and 1930s, and in 1938 the Congress of the United States declared it a federal holiday, and

WHEREAS, in 1954 the name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor those who had served in World War II (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953), and today, the holiday honors all veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB JONES, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SELAH, WASHINGTON, urge all citizens and all employees of the City of Selah to set aside time to commemorate those who have gone before us and made sacrifices so that we are free to work and live in this beautiful state.

Remember on November 11, 2007, the 118th anniversary of Washington statehood and the 89th anniversary of Veterans Day, to pause to honor our state flag, our US flag and our service men and women.

Signed this 23rd day of October, 2007

I. Consent Agenda

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting October 9, 2007
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Payroll Checks Nos. 61953 - 62105 for a total of \$142,748.77 and claim checks no. 50564 – 50637 for a total of \$134,086.83.
- * 3. Resolution Ratifying a Contract Between the City of Selah and Miller Construction Services, Inc. and Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the Same

Councilman Smeback moved to add M-1 to the Consent Agenda. Councilman Larson seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda as amended.

Councilman Schmid moved and Councilman Schmidt seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. By voice vote, the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

J. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing on Revenue Sources for the 2008 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski stated that, by law, the City is required to hold a public hearing on revenue sources to talk about where the money is going to come from for the coming year's budget. He noted the general fund, the operating fund of the City, is the largest fund and includes such things as the Council, the court, economic development, the finance department, legal department, pool, parks, and law enforcement. He stated the City has just begun the budget process, having met with Department Directors. He noted next week the City Supervisor will present the preliminary budget and then meet with each department and the Council to hone the budget. He stated anticipated revenues for the General fund total just over \$ 3,200,000 with property tax representing 27% (\$877,000) of that anticipated revenue and 17% (\$550,000) of it being sales tax revenue. He stated the anticipated tax levy is \$1,235,422, with \$2.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, a decrease of 18¢. He stated 71% of that will go to the General Fund, 19% to the Fire Control Fund, and the remaining 10% to the City Street Fund. He noted the sales tax is currently 8.2% which brings in \$650,000 to the City and another \$190,000 to transit tax.

Mayor Jones opened Public Hearing, and then asked how long the .03 of 1% Law & Justice levy will be in effect.

Mr. Novobielski responded that the levy began in 2005 and was to last for six years. He added that this year's levy of \$140,000 will all be spent on the Police Department in the 2008 budget.

Mayor Jones noted that he was interested in an article in the Yakima Herald the other day where Selah was accused of not spending that levy in the right place, although that money was spent appropriately. He further noted that they (the Sheriff's Department) is planning to spend their levy money to offset salaries, in other words, to "supplant" their budget.

Councilman Allen Schmid noted at the time they advertised for passage of that levy, Sheriff Irwin and County Attorney Zirkle assured voters that there would be no supplanting.

Mayor Jones asked if there was comment from the audience. Hearing none, he closed Public Hearing.

K. New Business

1. Tourism Promotion Publication

Councilman Herb Schmidt excused himself from consideration of this item, noting he receives a salary from the Visitors & Convention Bureau for his part-time work there.

Mayor Jones explained to the audience that Councilman Schmidt's employment with the V&C would be a conflict of interest on the current topic.

Frank Sweet stated his recommendation that the City advertise in Yakima Valley Visitors Guide published by Yakima Valley Newspapers, the publisher of the *Selah Independent*. He noted that would save the City \$500 and save Selah Chamber and Selah businesses \$2,250. He noted Mr. Cooper is here from the Visitor & Convention Bureau to convince the Council to use his publication. He noted Mr. Cooper will speak first and then Larry Watkins from the Yakima Valley Newspapers.

John Cooper, President & CEO of the Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau, introduced himself to the Council. He passed around a packet, which included a copy of the V&C Official Yakima Visitor Guide. He introduced sales representative Marlene Buchanan. He stated they have been producing this guide for more than fifteen years, and the City of Selah has been in the guide since 2004 at a full page level. He noted that rate has not changed since 2004. He stated they produce 90,000 copies of the guide and it is the official guide used by state agencies, the port of Seattle, and the State Department of Tourism. He noted it is also the official "fulfillment" piece used by the Bureau when they get requests or inquiries. He asked why the City of Selah publicizes in a publication.

Mayor Jones responded that advertising puts Selah on the map, and the City wants to bring in tourism dollars.

Mr. Cooper stated that it would benefit the community if the City "split the difference" by advertising with their publication while the Chamber advertises in the other publication, thereby having double the exposure. He stated they publish a good, solid piece it is well designed. He noted they take it to trade shows.

Councilman Paul Overby asked what the Chamber is doing with their ads.

Mr. Cooper stated he wasn't sure how they're doing their program in the other publication.

Frank Sweet stated it will likely look similar to the current one.

Councilman Overby asked if the Chamber would also put ads in Mr. Cooper's publication if they've already put ads in the other publication as well.

Mr. Sweet responded that they probably would not.

Mr. Cooper noted they appreciate their relationship with the City of Selah and believe Selah is an important partner with the V&C.

Mr. Sweet clarified that if the Council decides to publish with the "unofficial" guide, it will not affect the City's involvement with the Visitor & Convention Center.

Councilman Schmid asked what the cost of advertising in the V&C publication would be.

Mr. Cooper responded that it would be \$2,000.

Councilman Larson stated the \$6,500 a year the City puts in the V&C doesn't put anything in the publication at all.

Mr. Cooper stated that is correct, noting the Visitors' Guide is a self-supporting publication.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Cooper. He called on Mr. Watkins.

Larry Watkins introduced himself, noting he works for the Yakima Valley Newspapers who publish the *Selah Independent* as well as six other papers in the Valley and the Yakima Valley Visitor Guide. He noted they have published the Visitor Guide for a similar amount of time as the Visitor & Convention Bureau and have been printing a minimum of 70,000 copies per year. He stated their distribution is on the I-5 corridor, the I-90 corridor, the Gorge to Portland and points south, and as far north as Spokane and Coeur D'Alene, ID. He noted they've hired a third party group to distribute these year-round to motels, wineries, visitors' bureaus, Chambers of Commerce. He stated this is also backed up with a website with more than a million hits last year. He stated they offer local writers to do editorials on local communities at no charge; and for every page of advertising, they provide a free page of editorial. He stated they encourage people to visit and also to move to the area. They are also doing local recommendations of places to eat or shop. He said the \$1500 is a nice savings to the City, but his publication also offers more in terms of these other services. He handed out copies of the "unofficial" Yakima Valley Visitor Guide and offered to answer questions.

Mayor Jones thanked Larry Watkins for his presentation.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet restated his recommendation for approval of the \$1,500 expenditure and staying tied with the Selah Chamber, publishing in the "unofficial" Yakima Valley Visitor Guide, at least for this year.

Councilman Scott Smeback stated his appreciation for the 160,000 coverage both publications would bring.

Councilman Allen Schmid asked about the impact on their publications if the City should go with Larry's book and the advertisements go to the other one. Larry responded that their price would remain the same. Mr. Cooper stated the cost for the Chamber was \$3,600 this past year and would only go up to \$3,700 this coming year. The amount of coverage for Selah would be minimal if the Chamber goes with the Valley Newspaper publication.

Mr. Watkins stated the price will remain same for the Chamber, regardless of the City's choice.

Mr. Cooper stated this year the Chamber paid \$3,600 and the cost would go up to \$3,700 this year. He stated the Chamber chose not to be in this year's V&C publication.

Councilman Larson stated he likes the idea of supporting different entities, and the City is already supporting the Visitor & Convention Bureau with \$6,500. **He moved to support the staff recommendation to authorize expenditure for the Yakima Valley Visitors Guide.**

Councilman Paul Overby seconded.

Councilman Schmid asked the City Supervisor if he could see any benefit in publishing in both.

Mr. Sweet responded that any benefit would be minimal. He noted the cost effectiveness of spending \$1,500 probably makes sense. He further noted this is a Council decision.

Councilman Overby stated the Chamber represents businesses, and he would like to see the City go with local business.

Councilman Schmid stated he could see some benefit. He asked the price of a ¼ page ad.

Ms. Buchanan said cities are only eligible for full page ads.

Councilman Schmid again asked the price of a ¼ page ad.

Ms. Buchanan said a ¼ page ad would be \$1,200.

The question was called.

The Administrative Assistant asked for clarification on the motion.

Councilman Larson stated his motion is: **to support the City Supervisor's recommendation to approve the expenditure \$1,500 to advertise the City of Selah in the Yakima Valley Visitors Guide published by Yakima Valley Newspapers. (Councilman Overby previously seconded.) Roll was called: Council Member Smeback – no; Council Member Schmid – yes; Council Member Overby – yes; Council Member Larson – yes. Motion carried three to one.**

Mayor Jones moved on to Communications and then to Reports & Announcements

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

- * 1. Resolution Ratifying a Contract Between the City of Selah and Miller Construction Services, Inc. and Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the Same

N. Ordinances

O. Communications

- 1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

- 1. Mayor
- 2. Council Members
- 3. Boards
- 4. Departmental

- a. Fire Department Hose Line, 3rd Quarter 2007

Fire Chief Jerry Davis reported his department has had three calls to send trucks to Southern California. He stated his Department will not send a truck that far out-of-state. He stated Kittitas Co. will send some. He stated he has researched the availability of Reverse 911 since hearing of its use in southern California. He stated Wayne Wantland of Yakima County stated they do not have that system, and it would be cost prohibitive in Yakima County. He reported his department has new uniforms and will now send them to a laundry service. The new uniform shirts are fire resistant. He noted he will attend

the Fire Commissioners Conference for the rest of the week. He stated 350,000 people have been evacuated in the San Diego Area.

Mayor Jones noted in that area, greasewood burns and explodes, and there's no way to stop it.

Allen Schmid stated he heard there were gusts to 85 mph.

Jerry Davis noted these wildfires are all a part of global warming.

Councilman Larson thanked the Administrative Assistant for another budget calendar.

Herb Schmidt reported Kiwanis will be participating in the Halloween event.

Allen Schmid announced to parents who watch on YPAC, that the Selah Youth Center is open to 5th - 9th grade students. He encouraged kids to check it out.

Mayor Jones stated he was over there about 3:00pm, and students were doing their homework.

Allen Schmid stated the Youth Center is operated under new structure, and activities are much more closely monitored.

Herb Schmidt asked Jeff Hagler how many YVC student monitor kids' activities at the Youth Center.

Mr. Hagler responded that two students from YVC are monitoring activities, and referred to a report he handed out previously. He reported things are going very well.

Councilman Schmidt asked if there were any adults involved, and Mr. Hagler noted that one YVC student is the mother of three teenagers.

Mayor Jones reported EMS staff teaches all of the First Aid in Yakima County, and the EMS Levy exists to support this type of training. He stated all fire departments do out-of-district calls, and they bill for those services. He stated Naches put a "fly in the ointment" because they refused to bill, instead they wanted 1% to draw from for going out of their district. He further reported that the board took \$27,000 out of reserves to create a fund should a department chose not to bill, ruling the departments could either bill or do it themselves. He stated that the EMS has been concerned in case of a catastrophe, the office should move to National Guard. That move has been repeatedly stalemated. So the EMS is sending a letter to DOD telling them of reception EMS has had.

He concluded by stating he was called by Cassie Deatherage regarding Seniors not being able to have a potluck for Thanksgiving. Mayor Jones said he would help with that.

Councilman Schmidt stated Kiwanis would also help.

Mayor Jones declared a 5 minute recess to sign student slips and transition to Executive Session.

Q. Executive Session

1. Executive Session on Real Estate

The Council entered Executive Session at 4:58pm. They moved back into regular session at 5:12pm.

Councilmember Schmid moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a Purchase and Sale agreement and closing documents with Charlie Eglin for the sale of a 17,296 square feet portion of Parcel #18143624410 owned by the City for the purchase price of \$4.25 per square foot or \$62,883.00. Councilmember Overby seconded. By voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

R. Adjournment

Council Member Schmid moved, and Councilman Larson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

Paul Overby, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

(Excused)

Denise Nichols, Council Member

(Excused)

Brian Harris, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Scott Smeback, Council Member

Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer